



Employees' Retirement Board of Rhode Island
Election Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2012
8:45 a.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room, 50 Service Avenue

The Meeting of the Election Subcommittee of the Retirement Board was called to order at 8:50 a.m. Monday, January 23, 2012, on the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 50 Service Avenue, Warwick, RI

I. Roll Call of Members

The following members were present at roll call: Gary R. Alger; Daniel L. Beardsley; Deputy Treasurer Mark A. Dingley, Esq. for General Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo and Jean Rondeau.

Also in attendance: Frank J. Karpinski, ERSRI Executive Director; Attorney Michael P. Robinson, Board Counsel.

Recognizing a quorum, Chairperson Alger called the meeting to order.

II. Discussion and Certification of Ballot Tabulation Procedure

Director Karpinski apprised the Subcommittee of a matter that developed with the election ballots. He told the Subcommittee that when the ballots were mailed, apparently some "ink bleeding" of a line at the bottom of the ballot, when folded, caused the creation of faint line to appear in the bottom middle half of the ballot. Consequently, due to the sensitivity of the ballot scanning machine, for ballots that had the faint line, the scanner may not read the ballot.

Director Karpinski told the committee that he observed the situation at the Board of Elections (BOE) and discussed options with them since the ballots will likely need to be manually counted. One recommendation from the BOE was to begin processing ballots immediately and perform the official count on February 3rd. As of Friday, January 20th, Director Karpinski said the BOE had over 12,000 ballots; they estimate that a total of 14,000 may be received by January 31st.

Director Karpinski said that given the potential number of returned ballots, there could be as much as 7,000 ballots that need to be counted manually which the BOE felt could take 3-5 days, depending on the manpower. Given the time frame, the Director provided the recommendation of the BOE as a means to maintain the current schedule.

Mr. Beardsley asked how Director Karpinski could determine that the scanner would accurately read those ballots that are readable given the present situation. Director Karpinski said he would contact the BOE and require they perform a sample run of readable ballots and manually verify that the count is accurate.

The Subcommittee discussed the recommendation and on a motion by Attorney Mark A. Dingley and seconded by Daniel L. Beardsley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To not process the ballots prior to the scheduled counting on February 3, 2012 and for Director Karpinski to determine, with the BOE, that the scanner would accurately read those ballots that are readable given the present situation.

III. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Subcommittee, on a motion by Attorney Mark A. Dingley and seconded by Jean Rondeau the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank J. Karpinski

Executive Director